

XXXIX.—On a small Collection of Mammals made by Mr. C. V. A. Peel in Somaliland. By W. E. DE WINTON.

(1) *Macroscelides Revoilii*, Huet.

a. Lehello (4500 feet), 65 miles south of Berbera.

This single specimen is not fully adult, having the milk-teeth still in place.

(2) *Crocidura (Cr.) nana*, Dobs.

a, b. Eyk (4500 feet), 4th July.

As the dimensions of the skull of this, the smallest true *Crocidura* known, have not been published, some of the principal measurements are here given.

Greatest length 16 millim.; breadth 7; basal length 14·5; front of incisors to back of palate 7·5; entire tooth-row 6·5; tip of incisor to tip of large premolar 3·5; mandible, tip of incisor to condyle 9·7, to angle 10, angle to coronoid 4·9.

(3) *Herpestes ochraceus*, Gray.

a. Abori (5000 feet), 7th July.

Mr. O. Thomas, in a revision of this group (P. Z. S. 1832, p. 69), makes of this form his "variety d" of *H. gracilis*; but with further material and entire skulls, instead of the mutilated specimens then in the Museum, it is now shown to be a distinct species.

Size smaller than *H. gracilis*; colour ochraceous red or bright rusty on the dorsal surface, paler on the sides; fur less annulated with blackish. It is also smaller than *H. Grantii* from Zanzibar, but has rather more annulations on the fur. The size of the teeth and the much shorter and more rounded skull distinguish it from either of the above species.

The specimen contained in this collection being a flat skin, the measurements given below are taken from another individual in the British Museum, ♂ (no. 97. 8. 9. 7), Mandeira, Somaliland, collected and presented by Dr. A. E. Atkinson:—

Head and body (c.) 290 millim.; tail (c.) 245; hind foot 52.

Skull: greatest length 57; breadth 31; brain-case 25·5; basal length 54; length of entire tooth-row 24; greatest breadth outside teeth 20·3; length of carnassial tooth (outer side) 5·5; breadth of first molar 6·2, breadth of second molar 4·4; mandible, length (bone only) to condyle 37, to angle 37·1.

The most marked differences in the skull compared with *H. gracilis* are its shortness, the less developed occipital and sagittal crests, the postorbital processes not joining, the shorter tooth-row (measurement of entire tooth-row about equalling that from the front of the canine in *H. gracilis*), teeth individually smaller (especially the carnassial and first molar), last molar longer in proportion to the first, and the greater vertical depth of the auditory bullæ; in the mandible the most striking difference is the much shorter angular process, the measurements from the front of the jaw to the condyle and to the angle being practically equal.

(4) *Ictonyx erythræa*, sp. n.

Size smaller than the Cape Zorilla (*I. zorilla*). Colour and pattern of the markings generally as in that species; the suboral white patch, however, is rather more extensive, and the black dorsal stripe does not widen out quite so much over the loins.

The specimen contained in the present collection was obtained at Habr Heshi (4000 feet), Marehan Country, S.E. Somaliland, Aug. 24th. This being a flat skin, it is thought advisable to select as the type of the species another example from the collection of the British Museum (no. 93. 6. 7. 4), ♀, from Suakin, presented by Surg.-Capt. R. H. Penton.

Measurements (taken from dried skin):—

Head and body (c.) 335 millim.; tail (c.) 255; hind foot (c.) 46.

Skull: greatest length 55.5; greatest breadth 33.5; brain-case 28.9; intertemporal constriction 14.5; basal length 51; length of entire tooth-row 21.5; greatest breadth outside teeth 20; length of carnassial (outside) 6; breadth of molar 6; mandible, length (bone only) to condyle 34.5, to angle 33.2.

The shape of the skull generally as in *I. zorilla*, differing only in size. The front of the palate is scooped out, forming a shallow sinus, in which the incisive foramina are placed. The carnassial tooth is shorter in proportion and the molar narrower, especially internally.

The specific name chosen is intended to express some idea of the range of this species. The third form of this group, *I. senegalensis*, extends across the continent to Lado on the Nile, and into British East Africa as far as Machakos, where it has been obtained by Mr. F. J. Jackson.

(5) *Canis lupaster*, Hempr. & Ehrenb.

a. Edegan (5000 feet), 130 miles south of Berbera, 20th June.

(6) *Otocyon megalotis*, Desm.

a. Lehello, 10th June.

(7) *Xerus dabagala*, Heugl.

a. Lehello, 12th June.

Dr. Jentink, in his well-known revision of the African squirrels ('Notes Leyden Museum,' 1882, p. 41), gives this name as a synonym of *X. rutilus*; this, I think, is not doing justice to a form so strikingly different in coloration. The form described by M. Milne-Edwards (Rev. et Mag. Zool. 1867, p. 229) as *X. flavus* belongs no doubt to the present species.

(8) *Gerbillus ruberrimus*, Rhoads (?) = *G. pusillus*, Peters.

a. Bally Maroli (5000 feet), a little to west of Eyk.

I use the above name for this Gerbil as it has been applied to an animal from an adjacent locality; at the same time I am not at all sure that it is in any way distinct from *G. pusillus*, Pet., which comes from Taita in British East Africa.

(9) *Gerbillus imbellis*, sp. n.

Size medium; colour rich dark fawn, most of the hairs on the back tipped with black, sides purer; bases of the hairs on the back and the top of the head slate-coloured; all the underparts pure white; on the eyebrows, cheeks, and front of fore legs the white hairs are tipped with fawn; the white spots at the base of the ears and above the eyes distinct; tail darker above than below, rather sparingly haired; feet not very thickly covered with white hairs; nails darkish horn-colour; soles, toes, and pads very pale, closely covered with very conspicuous scale-like granulations; the toes have a few stiff white hairs on the lower side; pads and soles quite naked.

Type labelled "Goodar (4500 feet), July 14th."

Measurements (taken from the dried skin):—

Head and body (c.) 110 millim.; tail? (broken); hind foot (c.) 26·5; ear (c.) 14.

Skull: greatest length 32·5; greatest breadth 16·5; nasals 13·2 × 2·9; interparietal 4 × 9·5; basal length 26; henselion to back of palate 14; incisive foramina 5·7; palatal foramina 0·9; length of molar series 4·6; width outside <sup>ms. 1</sup> 7·3, width outside <sup>ms. 3</sup> 5·3; mandible, length (bone only) to condyle 17, to angle 14; height, standing on table, perpendicularly to condyle 7·5.

The nasals are slender, of uniform width throughout; the front roots of the zygomata are not extended far forward, the length being 5.1 millim. The molar series are strongly convergent from before backwards;  $m.^3$  is small, with no posterior cusp. The palatal foramina are small, placed opposite the third interior cusps of  $ms.^1$  and the first cusps of  $ms.^2$ . The mandible is exceedingly weak and low, the ascending ramus sloping backwards at a very obtuse angle from the molars to the condylar process, with no coronoid process whatever; angle short, not reaching backward more than halfway between the molars and the condyle.

The extraordinary weakness of the lower jaw suggests the specific name that is given, Gerbils being noted for fighting among themselves.

It will be interesting to know upon what this animal lives, for its food can hardly be of the same nature as that of the family generally.

(10) *Gerbillus Peeli*, sp. n.

Size small; colour above rich fawn, most of the hairs tipped with blackish, the bases of the hairs slate-coloured; all the underparts, to the bases of the hairs, pure white; feet and hands well clothed with white hairs; nails horn-coloured; fingers and toes sparingly covered with hairs on the lower sides, soles and pads quite naked; tail bicoloured, blackish brown above, deepening in intensity towards the tip, buffish white beneath.

Type labelled "Eyk (4500 feet), 4th July."

Measurements (taken from the dried skin):—

Head and body (c.) 70 millim.; tail (c.) 50; hind foot (c.) 24.

Skull: greatest length 26; greatest breadth 14.5; nasals  $9.2 \times 2.1$ ; interorbital constriction 4, interparietal  $4.2 \times 6.5$ ; basal length 21; incisive foramina 4.6; palatal foramina 3.1; molar series 3.8; outside  $ms.^1$  5, outside  $ms.^3$  4.7; mandible, greatest length, condyle to back of incisors 14.1, angle to back of incisors 12.

The skull is peculiarly square and short and unlike any other Gerbil I know, the zygomatic processes starting out very abruptly in front, recalling the skull of *Malucothrix*; the nasals, however, are short; the bullæ are rather large and very thin in texture. The palate is peculiar, the palatal (in distinction to the incisive) foramina being unusually large, commencing a little in front of  $ms.^1$  and extending back to about level with the middle of  $ms.^2$ ; foramen magnum some-

what compressed between the large bullæ, much higher than broad; the molar series not converging appreciably posteriorly; posterior cusp of  $m_3$  large, occupying more than a third part of the surface of the whole tooth.

I have great pleasure in associating the name of the collector with this very interesting new form.

(11) *Pectinator Spekei*, Blyth.

a. Lehello, 10th June.

(12) *Lepus somalensis*, Heugl., or *L. berberanus*, Heugl.

a. Lehello, 12th June.

Perhaps the specimen in the present collection agrees best with the description attached to the latter name; but as I have not had an opportunity of seeing the types, I am unable to say if they are really distinct species.

The upper incisors have the grooves entirely filled with cement level with the surface.

XL.—*Descriptions of Three new Rodents from Africa.*

By W. E. DE WINTON.

*Anomalurus Jacksoni*, sp. n.

Closely resembling *A. cinereus* in size and colour, but distinguished by having a black muzzle, a black ring round the eyes, and a large black spot behind the ear (all these characters are found in the West-African brightly coloured species *A. erythronotus*); a still more interesting outward distinction is the greater extension of the soft fur on the upperside of the wings, the rigid adpressed hairs being confined to a small space barely 2 inches long from the point of the expanding process backwards; there is not so much white on the underside of the neck and no white band from ear to ear, and the undersides of the fore and hind legs are dusky, and not clear white as in *A. cinereus*.

Type (♂), Ntebe, Uganda, 6th Oct., 1895. Collected by Mr. F. J. Jackson, H.M. Acting Commissioner in Uganda.

Measurements (taken from the dried skin):—

Head and body (c.) 320 millim.; tail (c.) 200; hind foot (c.) 53; ear (c.) 32.

Skull: greatest length 58; greatest breadth 38.5; greatest length of nasals (diagonally of one bone) 15.5; narrowest